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POLAND: Student Strike Canceled

The student strike at Warsaw University scheduled for yesterday to protest the firing of the popular rector was canceled after faculty members persuaded student leaders that a demonstration would be futile and dangerous. The military commissar for higher education told the faculty that, in the event of a strike, he would close the university for the rest of the school year.

Visited the campus yesterday and found the situation there normal.

Comment: The regime won this test, but the universities will continue to be a problem for martial law authorities. The firing of the rector probably was initiated by the local authorities, but hardline party and government officials elsewhere in Poland may try to follow their example and dismiss other liberal-minded academics. If they do, they will risk more student anger.

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27 April 1982

Approved for Release Date AUG 1990